dissemination in the form of "Agricultural Technology Management Agency" (ATMA) at district level.

- Setting up of National Rainfed Area Authority has been approved to deal with the problems faced by rainfed areas.
- Creation of additional irrigation potential under Bharat Nirman programme.
- Raising of fertilizer subsidies as announced in the Union Budget 2007-08.

Package for Punjab

†1205. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister had announced a package in Vadarbha region to give relief to the farmers of Maharashtra;

(b) whether Government have any plan to announce a package for the farmers of Punjab who have been crushed under the burden of debts;

(c) if so, the details thereof and by when the package would be announced; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Rehabilitation package announced by the Government of India targets to tackle the problems in the 31 Districts in 4 States of country which have been identified as the worst affected Districts reporting maximum number of suicide by the farmers. The criteria for selection of districts have been the severity and magnitude of suicide by farmers. The endeavour of the Government is to correct the situation in these districts so that spate of suicides by farmers in these areas could be checked.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.